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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 62/115 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/63/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the thirty-third edition of the handbook entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 29 March 2007 to 20 March 2008, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 62/115 of 17 December 2007.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 59 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the aforementioned resolutions:

> Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

> Holy See.

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[1] The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 58/105, 59/130, 60/113, 61/124 and 62/115.

[2] For the most recent reports, see A/57/90 and Add.1, A/58/71, A/59/74, A/60/67, A/61/66 and A/62/68 and Add.1.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 26 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following views of the Government of Argentina:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on Decolonization have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute, and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations recommended by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, and their inhabitants therefore have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as to the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Argentina.

Australia

8. In a communication dated 3 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations advised the Secretariat that Australia, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), administers one scholarship programme that is applicable to the request. The Australian Leadership Award Scholarship is open to applicants from the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau, and one scholar from Tokelau has commenced her Master's of Health Administration under this programme.

Cuba

9. In a note verbale dated 7 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General of the scholarships offered by the Government of Cuba to students of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for the period 2008-2009, as follows:

Number of students	*Subject*
1	Geology
1	Physical Engineering
1	Architecture
1	Degree in Mathematics
1	Degree in Physics

Number of students	*Subject*
1	Degree in Chemistry
2	Degree in Biology
1	Degree in Pharmacy
2	Forestry Engineering
1	Mechanical Engineering
1	Accounting
1	Mining
Total: 14	

Japan

10. In a note verbale dated 4 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the application and selection processes for scholarships granted by the Government of Japan were open to those who are natives or inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories among others, and no special consideration was given to them. In fiscal year 2008, a research student scholarship was granted to one student from Guam. Since fiscal year 2004, a Japanese studies student scholarship has been granted to one student from a territory administered by France.

Malaysia

11. In a note verbale dated 24 March 2008, the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that Malaysia, through the Ministry of Higher Education, has offered scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate studies through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme to countries participating in the Programme, which include 4 of the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories. These are: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Monserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. However, none of the students from the four territories concerned have been sponsored under the Programme since its implementation from 1992 to 2007. Malaysia also has not received any application or nomination for the undergraduate and postgraduate session in 2008 from the aforementioned territories.

12. Malaysia has also been offering short-term training courses for inhabitants of the above-mentioned Non-Self-Governing Territories through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. To date a total of five participants from Monserrat have participated in short-term courses that include broadcasting, fire-fighting and strategic management. The breakdown is as follows:

Institutions	*1997*	*2002*	*2004*	*2007*
National Institute of Public Administration			1	
Tn Razak Broadcasting Institute	1			1
Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia		1		1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

13. In a letter dated 28 February 2008, the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations advised the Secretariat as follows:

> Education in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories is a domestic issue and therefore, under their Constitutions, is the responsibility of the locally elected Overseas Territory Government. It is a matter of domestic policy for each Overseas Territory Government to determine what proportion of its national budgets is spent on study and training.
>
> Citizens of the Overseas Territories, who are also British citizens, have access to the United Kingdom's further and higher educational institutions. Overseas Territories students are charged the home fee rate for further education and higher education courses at colleges and universities in the United Kingdom. This means that Overseas Territories' students are treated equally as students from the United Kingdom.
>
> In addition, the United Kingdom offered four Chevening scholarships (covering social work and social science, business information technology and education) to Overseas Territories students in 2007/08 as follows:

Territory	*Number of students*
Anguilla	1
Cayman Islands	1
Monserrat	1
Saint Helena	1

United States of America

14. In a communication dated 20 February 2008, the Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations advised the Secretariat that: (a) student-age students residing in the United States Non-Self-Governing Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands enjoy the same scholarship opportunities as United States student-age residents in the fifty States of the United States. Consequently, the United States Government does not maintain a separate scholarship registry for student-age United States Non-Self-Governing Territories residents; and (b) student-age residents residing in the United States Non-Self-Governing Territories of Guam, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands may apply for scholarships in accredited institutions of higher learning in the respective United States Non-Self-Governing Territories or at any other United States institution of higher education.

C. Non-members

Holy See

15. In a note verbale dated 25 January 2008, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the Holy See has

made scholarships available at the Pontifical Universities in Rome to 10 inhabitants of American Samoa, 3 inhabitants of the United States Virgin Islands, 1 inhabitant of Guam, and 2 inhabitants of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

16. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

17. From 29 March 2007 to 20 March 2008, the Secretariat received no requests from students for information on the availability of scholarships.

IV. Conclusion

18. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.